

SYSTEMATIC NOTES ON MICRONESIAN PLANTS

by F. R. Fosberg

During the course of systematic studies of various genera occurring in Micronesia the need for a number of name changes has become apparent. Most of these are involved in larger problems which will be discussed in a number of later papers as the studies are completed. In the meantime, to validate names used in determination of specimens, the new combinations are published here.

DIGITARIA PRURIENS (Fisch. ex Trin.) Buse var. *MICROBACHNE*
(Presl) Fosberg, n. comb.

Panicum microbachne Presl, Rel. Haenk. 1: 298, 1830.

Not at all sharply distinct from *D. pruriens* var. *pruriens* but usually recognizable, so it is best not to reduce it outright, as was done by Reeder (Jour. Arn. Arb. 29: 292, 1948).

FICUS L.

Several Micronesian species of *Ficus* seem too close to wide ranging species of the south Pacific to be maintained as separate species. Varietal combinations are proposed here pending a more detailed discussion.

FICUS TINCTORIA Forst. f. var. *NEO-EBUDARUM* (Summ.) Fosberg,
n. comb.

Ficus neo-ebudarum Summerhayes, Jour. Arn. Arb. 13: 97, 1932.

FICUS PROLIXA Forst. f. var. *CAROLINENSIS* (Warb.) Fosberg, n.
comb.

Ficus carolinensis Warburg, in Schum. & Lauterb., Fl. Deutsch.
Schutzgeb. Suds. 242, 1905.

FICUS PROLIXA Forst. f. var. *SAFFORDII* (Merr.) Fosberg, n. comb.

Ficus saffordii Merr., Phil. Jour. Sci. Bot. 9: 74, 1914.

MELANOLEPIS MULTIGLANDULOSA (Bl.) Reichb. & Zoll. var.

GLABRATA (Müll.-Arg.) Fosberg, n. comb.

Mallotus moluccanus (L.) Müll.-Arg. var. *glabratus* Müll.-Arg.,
Linnaea 34: 186, 1865.

The plant formerly known as *Mallotus moluccanus* (L.) Müll.-Arg. is now usually placed in the genus *Melanolepis* as *M. multiglandulosa* (Bl.) Reichb. f. & Zoll. *Croton moluccanus* L., the basonym of Müller's combination, is not correctly applied to this species (see Merrill, Int. Rumph. Herb. Amb. 318-319, 1917). The appropriate combination for its var. *glabrata*, originally described from the Marianas, has apparently

not been made heretofore.

MAYTENUS Mol. Sagg. Chil. 177, 1782.

The Micronesian species currently referred to Gymnosporia W. & A. do not differ from Maytenus in any important respect, not even in the lack of thorns mentioned by Loesner (E. & P. Nat. Pfl. ed. 2, 20b: 109, 1942). They are therefore transferred to Maytenus. The two Micronesian species are closely related but may be distinguished by the ramified inflorescence of M. palauica in contrast to a fascicle of capillary pedicels on a reduced branch in M. thompsonii.

MAYTENUS PALAUICA (Loesn.) Fosberg, n. comb.

Gymnosporia palauica Loesn., Bot. Jahrb. 63: 272, 1930.

MAYTENUS THOMPSONII (Merr.) Fosberg, n. comb.

Gymnosporia thompsonii Merr., Phil. Jour. Sci. Bot. 9: 105, 1914.

POLYSCIAS TRICOCHELEATA (Miq.) Fosberg, n. comb.

Nothopanax tricocheleatum Miquel, Fl. Ind. Bat. 1 (1): 765, 1855.

This is the member of the series of variegated-leaved hedge-panax shrubs with trifoliolate leaves and orbicular leaflets. Its closest relative is probably Polyscias scutellaria (Burm. f.) Fosb. from which it conspicuously differs in the trifoliolate leaves and flat leaflets.

SOLANUM LYCOPERSICUM var. CERASIFORME (Dun.) Fosberg, n. comb.

Solanum cerasiforme Dunal, Hist. Sol. 112, 1813.

Lycopersicum esculentum var. cerasiforme (Dun.) Gray, Syn. Fl. 2 (1): 226, 1886.

There seems no more reason for maintaining a separate genus for the tomatoes than for numerous other groups commonly retained within the broad genus Solanum L. Müller's treatment (Misc. Pub. U.S.D.A. 382: 1-28, 1940) of the entities within this group seems generally satisfactory. He gives no varietal synonym in Solanum for the common cherry tomato which is widely escaped in the Pacific islands, nor has one been found elsewhere. The above combination is published in order to have a name for this variety in the broad genus.

PSEUDERANTHEMUM CARRUTHERSII (Seem.) Guillaumin, Ann. Mus. Colon. Marseilles VI, 5-6: 48, 1948.

Two varieties of this cultivated ornamental species are commonly planted in Micronesia. The green-leaved form is var. carruthersii. The other has been known as P. atropurpureum but certainly does not differ enough to merit specific rank. It may, therefore, be reduced to varietal status.

PSEUDERANTHEMUM CARRUTHERSII (Seem.) Guill. var.

ATROPURPUREUM (Bull) Fosberg, n. comb.

Eranthemum atropurpureum Bull, Gard. Chron. n. s., 3: 619, 1866.
Pseuderanthemum atropurpureum (Bull) Radlk., Sitzungsber. math.-
 phys. Kl. Akad. Wiss. München 113: 286, 1883.

CANTHIUM ODORATUM (Forst.) Seem. var. TINIANENSE (Kaneh.)
 Fosberg, n. comb.

Randia tinianensis Kanehira, Bot. Mag. Tokyo 46: 494, 1932.

Canthium tinianense (Kaneh.) Kaneh., Bot. Mag. Tokyo 49: 354,
 1935.

After seeing this plant growing and examining much herbarium material, I find that it represents a reasonably constant variation in the otherwise conspicuously inconstant species, C. odoratum. It is set off by the unusually stiff, perfectly elliptical leaf blades.

HEDYOTIS FOETIDA (Forst.) J. E. Sm. var. MARIANNENSIS (Merr.)
 Fosberg, n. comb.

Hedyotis mariannensis Merrill, Phil. Jour. Sci. Bot. 9: 144, 1914.

Because of its generally erect habit, greater stature, often larger leaves, usually more ample inflorescences on longer peduncles, and usually smaller fruits the Marianas population of this species merits varietal recognition, notwithstanding the fact that in 1942 (Occ. Pap. Bishop Mus. 15: 214, 1942) I reduced it outright.

PSYCHOTRIA HOMBRONIANA (Baill.) Fosberg, n. comb.

Uragoga hombroniana Baillon, Adansonia 12: 333, 1879.

This plant, collected by Hombron on Guam, is clearly, from the description, the shrubby species with sessile or subsessile flowers that has usually been referred to the genus Amaracarpus Bl. Baillon shows clearly that this so-called genus differs in no essential respect from Uragoga, L. in which he includes Psychotria L. (see also Fosberg, Occ. Pap. Bishop Mus. 15: 223-225, 1940). P. hombroniana is distinguished from the widespread Micronesian group referred in 1940 to P. carolinensis (Val.) Fosb. (but perhaps properly called P. malaspinae Merr.) by its peduncles being very short or lacking. There is some question as to the constancy of this character, however, and if the entire group should have to be referred to one species P. hombroniana is apparently the correct name for it. When sufficient material becomes available a critical study of the local variation in this species would be of great interest.

WEDELIA BIFLORA (L.) DC. var. CANESCENS (Gaud.) Fosberg, n. comb.

Verbesina canescens Gaudichaud Bot. Voy. Uranie 463, 1826.

Verbesina argentea Gaud., l. c.

Wollastonia canescens DC. Prodr. 5: 547, 1836.

Stemmodontia canescens Wight in Safford, Contr. U. S. N. H.
9: 377, 1905.

Wedelia canescens (Gaud.) Merr. Phil. Jour. Sci. Bot. 9: 155, 1914.

Wedelia argentea (Gaud.) Merr. Phil. Jour. Sci. Bot. 9: 155, 1914.

The Marianas plant seems to differ constantly, though slightly, from the widespread Pacific var. biflora in being more pubescent and having smaller achenes. Plants which approach it exist in Palau and Samoa, perhaps elsewhere. This variety has in the past either been recognized as two species or reduced outright to W. biflora. The latter course was followed by Mattfeld (Bot. Jahrb. 62: 434, 1929).

A NEW FORM OF RUDBECKIA FROM NEW JERSEY

Fred W. Oswald

RUDBECKIA SEROTINA f. NOVAE-CAESAREAE Oswald, f. nov.

Haec forma a forma typica speciei recedit floribus disci primo viridibus demum subbrunneis.

This form differs from the typical form of the species in having the disk at first green, changing later to light-brown as the florets bloom upwards.

The type of this form was collected by myself in the Fairmount section of Hackensack, Bergen County, New Jersey, on July 6, 1955, and is deposited in the H. N. Moldenke Herbarium at Yonkers, New York.

Our common Black-eyed-susan is now called Rudbeckia serotina Nutt. (formerly listed as R. hirta L., a name now restricted to another species), and is quite variable. Following are the additional forms and varieties now recognized in it:

f. annulata (Clute) Fern. & Schub., with orange-yellow rays tipped with red.

var. corymbifera (Fern.) Fern. & Schub., with the flower-heads arranged in subcorymbose fashion.

f. dichrona (Clute) Moldenke, comb. nov. [R. hirta f. dichrona Clute, Am. Bot. 30: 159. 1924], with the rays deep-yellow at the base and pale-yellow at the tip.

f. flavescens (Clute) Moldenke, comb. nov. [R. hirta f. flavescens Clute, Am. Bot. 21: 56. 1915], with the yellow rays white or cream-colored at the tips.

f. frondosa (Clute) Moldenke, comb. nov. [R. hirta f. frondosa Clute, Am. Bot. 31: 168. 1925], with the heads leafy.

f. gigantea (Clute) Moldenke, comb. nov. [R. hirta f. gigantea Clute, Am. Bot. 30: 159. 1924], with the heads to 4 inches wide and the involucre bracts over 1 inch long and leafy at their tips.

f. homochroma (Steyerm.) Fern. & Schub., with the disk yellow.